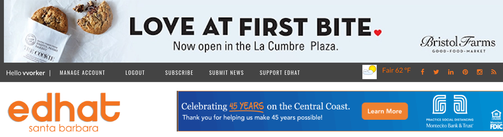




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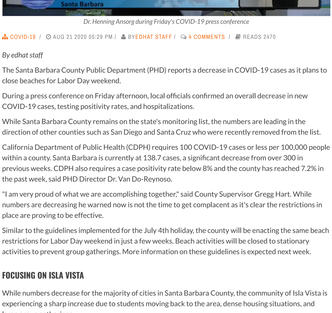
# COVID-19 CASES DECLINE AS OFFICIALS PLAN FOR LABOR DAY BEACH CLOSURES




*Dr. Henning Ansorg during Friday's COVID-19 press conference*

COVID-19 / AUG 21 2020 05:28 PM / BY EDHAT STAFF / 4 COMMENTS / READS 2470

*By edhat staff*

The Santa Barbara County Public Department (PHD) reports a decrease in COVID-19 cases as it plans to close beaches for Labor Day weekend.

During a press conference on Friday afternoon, local officials confirmed an overall decrease in new COVID-19 cases, testing positivity rates, and hospitalizations.

While Santa Barbara County remains on the state's monitoring list, the numbers are leading in the direction of other counties such as San Diego and Santa Cruz who were recently removed from the list.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requires 100 COVID-19 cases or less per 100,000 people within a county. Santa Barbara is currently at 138.7 cases, a significant decrease from over 300 in previous weeks. CDPH also requires a case positivity rate below 8% and the county has reached 7.2% in the past week, said PHD Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso.

"I am very proud of what we are accomplishing together," said County Supervisor Gregg Hart. While numbers are decreasing he warned now is not the time to get complacent as it's clear the restrictions in place are proving to be effective.

Similar to the guidelines implemented for the July 4th holiday, the county will be enacting the same beach restrictions for Labor Day weekend in just a few weeks. Beach activities will be closed to stationary activities to prevent group gatherings. More information on these guidelines is expected next week.

## FOCUSING ON ISLA VISTA

While numbers decrease for the majority of cities in Santa Barbara County, the community of Isla Vista is experiencing a sharp increase due to students moving back to the area, dense housing situations, and large group gatherings.

PHD is working with the county, UC Santa Barbara, and the Isla Vista Community Services District to prevent the spread of the virus. There is extensive social media outreach and education on avoiding gatherings, wearing masks, and keeping a distance. Face coverings are being distributed throughout the community and many local businesses are expanding their outdoor services with proper distancing, said Dr. Do-Reynoso.

Isla Vista residents are also encouraged to speak with their roommates about keeping their household safe and what to do if someone experiences symptoms. UC Santa Barbara and community providers are also increasing their mental wellness support.

Dr. Do-Reynoso expects to see a reduction of infections within two to three weeks, similar to the City of Santa Maria.

County Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg also informed the community that younger people are at risk of infection and have a greater likelihood of spreading the virus than older people. He said approximately 40% of hospitalizations within Santa Barbara County are people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

## FRIDAY'S COVID-19 NUMBERS

PHD is reporting three additional deaths of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19. All three individuals were between the ages of 50-69, had underlying health conditions and lived in the City of Santa Maria. Deaths are reported when a death certificate is processed listing COVID-19 as a cause or a significant condition. The process can take several days and up to 2 months to finalize if pending Coroner verification.

There are now a total of 87 COVID-19 related deaths in Santa Barbara County.

"To all the families who have lost a loved one to COVID-19, we keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We know there is a large percentage of people who have no symptoms and are unaware they are spreading the virus. It is up to all of us to take preventive measures to slow the spread. Stay at least 6 feet from others who do not live in your household, avoid gatherings, wear a face covering and wash your hands thoroughly and often," said Dr. Do-Reynoso.

There are 81 new cases today adding to the county's grand total of 7,653. Of those, 254 are active or infectious cases. There are currently 54 hospitalizations including 20 in the intensive care unit (ICU).

Health officials urged residents to continue following the guidelines so the county can be removed from the state's monitoring list allowing more schools to reopen.

Dr. Ansorg reminded the community the school waiver process is now open to K-6 elementary schools and the application is now posted on the county's website. Once the application is received, it could take up to two weeks for the school to reopen due to approval from the local and state health offices.

More data and information can be found at https://publichealthsbc.org.

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## 4 COMMENTS

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First Commented

JB86 AUG 21, 2020 08:53 PM REPLY

Are the beach closures going to be the same as before, allowing running and walking but banning sitting on your butt in the sun? Pretty stupid, if so. Who came up with this idea, and based on what 'science?'

Comment has been deleted by edhat

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JASONC70 AUG 21, 2020 11:40 PM REPLY

When the City of Los Angeles shuts off power and utilities to a mansion hosting parties, what does Santa Barbara do? Why let hundreds of kids spew COVID all over each other at Beach City of course! What will it take to have some kind of accountability at Beach City? 50 infections? A murder? Because there sure are a lot of fights along with some kind of a party happening EVERY NIGHT. With IV having an increase in COVID cases recently, at least that problem is acknowledged and reported on there. Why is everyone in SB turning a blind eye to Beach City? All the bars are closed, IV is constricted, so the young and restless head to Beach City where I guess if no one talks about it, it "simply disappears?"

YIANNIS92101 AUG 22, 2020 03:16 AM REPLY

Yeah, those UCSB kids are coming back...not sure why seeing many classes are online anyway, you can already feel it by the traffic flow.....and their wreckless driving. All sling and summer were had very few cases, hardly any in IV. I live at Friendship Manor retirement living. This is all we need here are hundreds of kids coming here and not being responsible. And I fault UCSB because they I believe need to be a little stricter and make the students aware of their responsibility to the community....wear a mask and NO parties! How dare they come into the community and bring disease. There are over 200 seniors that live at Friendship Manor and we've been healthy, don't let these young jerks get us sick just because they want to have a weekend boozer!

GIZMO1 AUG 22, 2020 07:22 AM REPLY

Duh- finally did something- another f-tard Dr Assberg

Your comment has been posted.

VVORKER AUG 22, 2020 08:02 AM REPLY

Yeah...IV is gonna be a problem. The kids are getting there money's worth and partying like its 1999. The police are not visible. Not to mention all the parks have become tent cities, with shelter in place refugees. Our community living up to it's fools paradise again, extreme wealth and extreme poverty living next door to each other!!
Wait to Halloween rolls into town, and lock down round 2 before Turkey sacrifice day methinks. Theses students get locked into year leases, so should get interesting..
Had a nightmare many years ago that IV burned down one night following student riots, but we all know how dreams are...all those asbestos filled $2000 a month per room, rentals up in smoke!
Ice Creams, or Nice Dreams? Too much Cheech and Chong you say?

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